

the Virginia Tech Police Emergency Response Team. In 2008, he also received an award for his commitment to the department's Driving Under the Influence efforts.

Before joining the Virginia Tech Police Department, Officer Crouse worked at the New River Valley Jail and the Montgomery County Sheriffs Department. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army.

Officer Crouse, formerly of Galax, resided in Christiansburg, VA. He is survived by his wife, Tina Akers Crouse; son, Dustin Crouse; stepchildren, Logan and Hayden Schack, and Tyler and Peyton Robinette; parents, Tony Crouse and Bonita Arnold; and brothers, Darris Upchurch and Kevin Crouse.

I am honored to pay tribute to this great man. Officer Crouse will be long remembered throughout the Virginia Tech and law enforcement communities. My continued prayers are with his family as they grieve this tragic loss. Southwest Virginia has truly lost one of its finest.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF KING'S PARK AND THE 4TH ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Kings Park Community, and the 4th Annual Potluck Dinner. The quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Kings Park is a testament to the strong community spirit that has existed for half a century.

King's Park is a community of 1100 homes located in central Fairfax County, in the heart of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. Although this is a very large community, it maintains the feel of a true neighborhood or small town. Within the Kings Park boundaries, there are two elementary schools, a large public park, and a community swimming pool. The residents are well served by the local civic association; King's Park Civic Association (KPCA). KPCA publishes The Gazette news letter, helps to ensure the safety of the residents through its Neighborhood Watch and Block Captain programs, and sponsors community events such as the Annual Yard Sale, 4th of July Parade and Picnic, Children's Holiday Party, Senior's Lunch, and Community Potluck Dinner. In addition, KPCA oversees several citizen committees which address residents' concerns, provide assistance, and facilitate communication with the county on local governmental issues.

Fifty years ago, in 1960, the total population of Fairfax County was 261,417; in 2010 the population had more than quadrupled to 1,081,726. Despite this phenomenal growth, King's Park has retained its unique identity thanks to the efforts of the volunteers and community activists. The success of the King's Park Civic Association can be attributable to its ability to provide tangible benefits to its residents, and to promote a spirit of collaboration and inclusion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of King's Park, and the 4th Annual potluck dinner organized by the King's Park Civic Association. I

also thank the residents and members of the Kings Park Civic Association for their efforts to ensure that Kings Park remains a wonderful place to call home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 914, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL LAFAYETTE VILLAGE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Arbor Day 2011 and to recognize the Lafayette Village Community's annual neighborhood cleanup and tree planting.

Founded by J. Sterling Morton, the first Arbor Day was held in Nebraska April 10, 1872. Arbor Day has since grown to be celebrated in more than 30 countries around the world. Arbor Day recognizes and celebrates the value and beauty of trees in our communities, and it is observed by planting a new tree.

Lafayette Village is a community of 313 homes in Fairfax County, Virginia. This is its fourth annual Arbor/Earth Day ceremony, and tree planting is a longstanding tradition for Lafayette Village. In conjunction with the annual tree planting, Lafayette Village conducts a community cleanup as well. Children are encouraged to participate, which helps to instill the values of community service and teamwork.

Environmental stewardship leads to beautiful communities such as Lafayette Village. Hundreds of trees have been planted over the years as an affirmation of their commitment to this stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude to the residents of Lafayette Village. Their efforts prove that beautifying a neighborhood requires only a generous amount of time and community spirit.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300-132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,054,018,277,569.01. We've added \$10,252,613,102,274.73 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our

nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 LIFECIRCLE ALLIANCES KUDOS FOR CAREGIVERS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 2011 LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Awards. LifeCircle Alliances, a non-profit organization based in Fairfax County, Virginia, is a leader in promoting and enabling independent living for older and adults with developmental, intellectual, or physical disabilities, including our Wounded Warriors.

LifeCircle Alliances has created innovative public-private partnerships with its 45 members including businesses, individuals, educational facilities, philanthropic organizations and government agencies to showcase and raise money for creative and cost-effective long-term care solutions. The funds raised and the efforts of the LifeCircle partners help to create innovative long-term care initiatives, enhance existing programs, and address workforce, mobility and transportation issues. The goal of these efforts is independence for life; ensuring that our older adults and adults with disabilities are able to live independently and with dignity in their communities of choice.

The LifeCircle Alliances Kudos for Community Caregivers Award celebration recognizes the efforts of five outstanding caregivers, who provide dedicated care, day in and day out. The recipients of the 2011 Kudos Awards are:

Inas Eldarwish—For years, Inas and her husband Ayman provided care to their two disabled sons, Ahmed and Hazem. Sadly, Ahmed passed away several years ago. The grace with which Inas handled this tragic loss was remarkable. Through her mourning, she has remained a dedicated and selfless mom to Hazem supporting his interests and helping him reach his full potential.

The Belvoir Woods Healthcare Center Family Council at The Fairfax (BWHCC)—This council is comprised entirely of volunteer family caregivers of current or former BWHCC residents. Through their efforts, residents at Belvoir Woods enjoy guest speaker programs and quality of life resources such as dog therapy visits, loaner scooters, and wheelchairs. They also are able to keep in touch with out-of-area family and friends through the use of free Wi-Fi.

Linda Walthall and Family—Through considerable adversity Linda and Frank Walthall have provided exceptional care for the last 7 years to her elderly mother, who requires 24 hour supervision. It is this selfless devotion to family that warrants her recognition as an exceptional caregiver.

Colonel Christine Ingle (Rtd)—Col. Ingle has served as a volunteer mentor and caregiver to our Wounded Warriors at Fort Belvoir. She recently has started a program for Veterans who are interested in pursuing careers in the healthcare field after their discharge from the Warrior Transition Unit.